

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-11(canceled)

Claim 12 (original): A biochip reader that irradiates excitation light from a light source to a plurality of cells of the biochip respectively via a plurality of microlenses and reads fluorescence image information from genes to which fluorescent substances are stuck and which are poured into a said plurality of cells with a detector; wherein

said light source is configured to generate excitation light composed of a part of strong light intensity and another part of weak light intensity, and

on said biochip, genes of each cell are arranged so that genes are expressed less at the strong light intensity part and are expressed more at the weak light intensity part.

Claim 13 (original): A biochip reader in accordance with claim 12, wherein said light source is configured to generate excitation light that gives a light intensity distribution in which the intensity is strong at its center part and weak at the peripheral part.

Claim 14 (original): A biochip reader in accordance with claim 12 or claim 13, wherein a

In the re the Rue 1.53(b) Divisional Application  
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mask that cuts or attenuates part of excitation light is arranged between said light source and said sample.

Claim 15 (Amended): A biochip reader in accordance with ~~any of claims 12 to 14~~ claim 12 or 13, wherein a zoom mechanism for changing the light intensity distribution of excitation light from said light source corresponding to expression of genes on said biochip, is provided.

Claim 16 (canceled)